1. (Twice Amended) A method for inducing a mucosal immune response, comprising: administering to a mucosal surface of a subject in need of a mucosal immune response an effective amount for inducing a mucosal immune response of an oligonucleotide at least 8 nucleotides in length, having a sequence including at least the following formula:

$$5' X_1 X_2CGX_3 X_4 3'$$

wherein C is unmethylated, wherein $X_1$, $X_2$, $X_3$, and $X_4$ are nucleotides, and

exposing the subject to an antigen to induce the mucosal immune response, and wherein the antigen is not encoded in a nucleic acid vector.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is actively exposed to the antigen.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the antigen is delivered to a mucosal surface.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the antigen is administered concurrently with the oligonucleotide.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the antigen is delivered in conjunction with a colloidal dispersion system.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the colloidal dispersion system is selected from the group consisting of macromolecular complexes, nanocapsules, microspheres, beads, and lipid-based systems.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the lipid-based system is selected from the group consisting of oil-in-water emulsions, micelles, mixed micelles, and liposomes.

8. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of administering a non-oligonucleotide mucosal adjuvant in conjunction with the antigen.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the non-oligonucleotide mucosal adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of cholera toxin, derivatives of cholera toxin, labile toxin, derivatives of labile toxin, alum, MLP, MDP, saponins such as QS21, cytokines, oil-in-water and other emulsion formulations such as MF59, SAF, Montanide ISA 720 and PROVAX, PCPP polymers, and ISCOMS.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is passively exposed to the antigen.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the subject is a subject at risk of developing an allergic reaction.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the subject is a subject at risk of developing an infectious disease.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the subject is at risk of developing cancer.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide is 8 to 100 nucleotides in length.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide includes a phosphate backbone modification which is a phosphorothioate or phosphorodithioate modification.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the phosphate backbone modification occurs at the 5' end of the oligonucleotide.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the phosphate backbone modification occurs at the 3' end of the oligonucleotide.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein $X_1X_2$ are nucleotides selected from the group consisting of: GpT, GpG, GpA, ApA, ApT, ApG, CpT, CpA, CpG, TpA, TpT, and TpG; and $X_3X_4$ are nucleotides selected from the group consisting of: TpT, CpT, ApT, TpG, ApG, CpG, TpC, ApC, CpC, TpA, ApA, and CpA.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide has a sequence including at least the following formula:

$$5' \text{ TCNTX}_1\text{X}_2\text{CGX}_3\text{X}_4 \text{ 3'}$$

wherein $X_1$, $X_2$, $X_3$, and $X_4$ are nucleotides, N is a nucleic acid sequence composed of from about 0-25 nucleotides.

20. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the antigen is selected from the group consisting of cells, cell extracts, proteins, polypeptides, peptides, polysaccharides, polysaccharide conjugates,

peptide mimics of polysaccharides, lipids, glycolipids, carbohydrates, allergens, viruses and viral extracts and parasites.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the antigen is an allergen.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the antigen is derived from an infectious organism selected from the group consisting of infectious bacteria, infectious viruses, infectious parasites, and infectious fungi.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is an asthmatic.

24. The method of claim 1, further comprising administering a cytokine to the subject.

25. The method of claim 1, further comprising administering a B-7 costimulatory molecule.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein the mucosal immunity is induced in a remote site.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising administering a boost of the oligonucleotide.

28. The method of claim 8, further comprising administering a boost of the oligonucleotide and the non-oligonucleotide mucosal adjuvant.

125. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein oligonucleotide is administered to a mucosal surface different from that at which the subject is exposed to the antigen.

126. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide is administered by inhalation.

127. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is exposed to the antigen by inhalation.

128. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide is formulated for ocular administration, rectal administration, vaginal administration, intranasal administration or inhalation.